

## Message Text

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PAGE 01      PARIS 34826 232125Z

11  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /090 W  
----- 093192

R 232113Z NOV 76  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7370  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 34826

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR FT FR  
SUBJ: QUAI COMMENTS ON FTAI

REF: (A) PARIS 34702, (B) PARIS 33444

1. DURING CONVERSATION NOV 22 (REF A), QUAI DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA GEORGY TOLD US THAT THE CHIEF UNRESOLVED QUESTION ON BRINGING THE FTAI TO INDEPENDENCE IS THAT OF THE MANNER OF SELECTING THE GOVERNMENT TO WHICH POWER WILL BE TRANSFERRED AND ITS TIMING. ONE SCHOOL HOLDS THAT IF CURRENT EFFORTS TO BROADEN THE KAMIL GOVERNMENT TO INCLUDE MEMBERS OF ALL FACTIONS SUCCEED, NEW ELECTIONS ARE UNNECESSARY AND POWER CAN BE TRANSFERRED DIRECTLY TO IT AS BEING A "REPRESENTATIVE" GOVERNMENT. THIS, OF COURSE, WOULD LEAVE THE FRENCH OPEN TO CHARGES OF HAVING GIVEN INDEPENDENCE TO A "PUPPET"

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PAGE 02      PARIS 34826 232125Z

GOVERNMENT. BUT IT ALSO WOULD ALLOW THE FRENCH TO GRANT

INDEPENDENCE ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE REFERENDUM (ASSUMING A WAY WILL BE FOUND TO MINIMIZE FRENCH CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL) AND THUS MINIMIZE THE POSSIBILITY OF A UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE BASED ON THE INTERNATIONAL "CUSTOM" OF A STATE'S BEING RECOGNIZED AS INDEPENDENT THE MOMENT IT HAS OPTED FOR SUCH STATUS IN A LEGAL REFERENDUM.

2. ANOTHER SCHOOL CONTENTS THAT ELECTIONS MUST BE HELD, EVEN IN FACE OF THE DANGERS THAT A SIGNIFICANT DELAY BETWEEN THE REFERENDUM AND THE TRANSFER OF POWER CLEARLY WOULD CREATE, IF THE NEW STATE IS TO AVOID BEING IRREDEEMABLY TARRED AS A FRENCH "PUPPET". GEORGY SAID THE QUAI INTENDS TO FIGHT STRONGLY FOR THE VIEW THAT ELECTIONS OR NOT, THE MOVE FROM REFERENDUM TO INDEPENDENCE MUST BE VERY RAPID AND THAT THE ONLY REAL GUARANTEE OF THE NEW STATE'S VIABILITY WILL BE ITS ALMOST IMMEDIATE ENTRY AFTER THE REFERENDUM INTO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND THE AUTHORITY IT THEREBY ACQUIRES. GEORGY CITED FRENCH HANDLING OF THE COMOROS AS WHAT MUST BE AVOIDED, AND TIMOR AS THE INIQUE EXAMPLE OF A TERRITORY THAT ENTERED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND SUBSEQUENTLY LOST ITS INDEPENDENT STATUS. HE PERSONALLY THOUGHT THAT THE REFERENDUM AND ELECTIONS COULD BE HELD SIMULTANEOUSLY AND POWER TRANSFERRED WITHIN THE WEEK FOLLOWING THE VOTE.

3. ON OTHER ASPECTS, GEORGY SAID THAT HE IS CONVINCED OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE AVOWED ETHIOPIAN INTENTION TO INTERVENE SHOULD SOMALIA ENTER THE NEW STATE, ETHIOPIAN WEAKNESSES NOTWITHSTANDING. HE CONFIRMED THE FRENCH DESIRE TO MAINTAIN A MILITARY FORCE "OF 3000 TO 4000" MEN AND NOTED THAT WHILE NONE OF DJIBOUTI'S NEIGHBORS WOULD PUBLICLY DEFEND SUCH A FRENCH MILITARY PRESENCE, ALL OF THEM, EXCEPTING SOMALIA, PRIVATELY HAVE GIVEN ASSURANCES THAT THEY WANT THE FRENCH TO REMAIN.

4. GEORGY SAID THE FRENCH PLAN TO INVITE UN, OAU AND ARAB LEAGUE OBSERVERS FOR THE REFERENDUM. FINALLY, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03      PARIS 34826 232125Z

HE CORROBORATED THE FRENCH INTENTION TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION IN THE HORN WITH THE SOVIETS.  
RUSH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 23 NOV 1976  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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